

XXII. *Description of a new genus of Coleoptera, belonging to the family Scaritidæ.* By Dr. HERMANN BURMEISTER.

[Read 1st December, 1875.]

THE following description of a new Coleopterous insect was communicated by Professor Burmeister, of Buenos Ayres, who had named it in honour of Professor Westwood on his attaining the age of seventy years, on the 22nd December, 1875 (adopting for it one of his christian names):—

OBADIUS INSIGNIS.

This new genus, belonging to the family *Scaritidæ*, was taken on the shore of the River Uruguay, near the little town of Concordia in Entrerios; and communicated to me as the single specimen found there. The insect has the external appearance of *Clivina*, but differs from that genus and all others known of the same family by many particular characters, exposed in the following general description:—

*Adumbratio generis.*

*Antennæ* ante oculos insertæ, breves, 11-articulatæ, submoniliformes; articulo primo elongato, subclavato, sequentibus tribus longitudine æquali; secundo, tertio et quarto longitudine decrescentibus, nudis, nitidis; quarto omnium minutissimo; reliquis longitudine æqualibus, sensim paululum crassioribus, tenerrime pubescentibus, pallide pilosis; ultimo majori, obtuse acuminato.

*Oculi* hemisphærici, parum convexi, sed desuper conspicui, posticum versus nodulo genarum suffulti.

*Clypeus*, *frons* et *vertex* irregulariter rugosi, lateribus argute marginatis; pars anterior frontis juxta clypeum dilatata, subtumida, sulco longitudinali a clypeo separata, superficie inæquali, antice oblique carinata.

*Labrum* breve, arcuatum, transversum, angulis rotundatis.

*Mandibulæ* sat longæ, falcatae, acutæ, edentatæ, supra cum arca basali paululum elevata, quibus arcis anguli labri incumbent in statu clauso mandibularum; clausæ labrum circumdant figura semicirculari, sinistra super dextram inferiorem eamque obtegente; utraque supra plana, subtus convexa, basi carinata.

*Maxillæ* absconditæ, vix examinatæ, palpis longis, quadri-articulatis; articulo secundo cylindrico, parum curvato; tertio minuto; ultimo ovali, basi introrsum versus incrassata, summo apice parum truncato sed acuminato.

*Mentum* transversum, parum dilatatum, carina media transversa bipartitum, parte basali bifoveolata; lobis lateralibus subacutis, parum apice prominentibus, denteque medio simplici acuto, angulis lateralibus longitudine aequali.

*Ligula* brevis, obtusa; palpis labialibus quadriarticulatis, sat longis; articulo primo cylindrico; secundo minutissimo; tertio longiori, subcylindrico, ultimo parum breviori; hoc ovato, basi incrassato, acuminato, sed summo apice vix acuto, obtusiusculo.

*Prothorax* sat longus, latitudine paulo longior, anticum versus angustior, basi arcuata, angulis posticis oblique rotundatis, obtusis; superficie dorsali sulco antico profundo transverso post marginem in medio angulato et bidentato, altero longitudinali tenniori, striisque multis (ultra triginta) tenuibus transversis, totum discum pronoti occupantibus; lateribus pronoti levibus, parum rugulosis, sulco marginali bene distincto ab ipso margine separatis; summa basi pulvinata, foveolis duabus oblongis impressa.

*Scutellum* absconditum.

*Elytra* oblonga, subcylindrica, lateribus parallelis, in apice rotundata, pronoto duplo longitudine æqualia, profunde striata; striis punctatis, interstitiis parum convexis.

*Pectora* et *abdomen* convexa, nitida, impunctata; prosterno tumido, mucrone obtuso subtriangulari inter coxas producto, lobis pronoti interioribus tenuiter rugulosis; parapleuris sulco circumdatis; abdomine quadriannulato, segmentis convexiusculis, ante marginem tenuiter transverse sulcatis.

*Pedes* breves, sat validi; coxis quatuor anterioribus globosis, prominulis; femoribus anticis incrassatis; tibiis his palmatis, extus obtuse tridentatis, apice in dentem longum angustum curvatum productis, in latere interno

profunde excisis, calcaribus duobus æqualibus, longis, aduncis, subtusque carina argute munitis. Tarsis anterioribus elongatis, articulo primo reliquis unitis æquali, his sensim decreascentibus, omnibus utrinque setosis. Unguibus minutis. Femoribus mediis et posticis haud in-crassatis, his parum brevioribus, illis subaduncis; tibiæ angulis externis crenatis, setosis; mediis parum brevioribus, dente apicali externo armatis; posticis gracilioribus, longius setosis; omnibus intus in apice bicalcaratis, calcaribus in-æqualibus. Tarsis quatuor posticis tibia longioribus, articulis decreascentibus, ultimo præcedente parum longiori, omnibus setosis.

Speciem unicam mihi notam, semel captam propango nomine

*O. insignis.*

Piceo-niger, nitidus; antennis, palpis pedibusque obscure ferrugineis. Long. 5 lin. (9 mm.).

Habitat in littore fluminis Uruguay, circa oppidum La Concordia. Dom. A. Doering.

Caput elongatum, oblongo-ovale, anticum versus paulo latius; clypeo truncato, lateribus elevatis, ovalibus, argute marginatis, supra antennarum insertionem protractis, mandibularum basi adæquantibus. Superficies tota rugulosa, sed impunctata. Pronoti disco transversim multi-striato, striis in latere externo abbreviatis; lateribus descendentibus, obsolete rugulosis; antice sulco profundo post marginem impresso, in medio angulato, angulo bidentato; margine laterali parum elevato, stria intermarginali a disco separata; angulis anticis rotundatis, parum prominulis; posticis obliquis; sulculo oblongo utrinque, discum separante, juxta conjuncturam impresso, lineaque media longitudinali parum profunda. Elytra obtuse marginata, juxta marginem sulco longitudinali excavata, striisque duabus angustis in ipso sulco notata; disco sexies striato, striis catenato-punctatis, interstitiis parum convexis, externo juxta sulcum perperam elevatori; margine inflexo laterali stria intramarginali altera signato; striis discalibus in apice binis conjunctis, hoc modo 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 5 & 6, tuberculo tumido terminali separatis. Corpus subtus impunctatum, glaberrimum, lateribus pronoti inflexis, latis, transverse parum rugulosis; gula ante mentum foveola duplici impressa, dehinc longitudinaliter stria unica sulcata.

The genus belongs, according to the arrangement of M. Putzeys, repeated by Lacordaire (Genr. d. Coleopt., i., 190), to the section with arcuate and acuminate mandibles, and takes its place alongside of the two genera

*Lachenus* and *Cryptomma*, uniting in some respects the peculiar configuration of both.

But from these two genera *Obadius* is especially distinguished by the form of the mentum with its three equal acute apical teeth, and also from

*Cryptomma* by the prominent eyes. The fine transverse striation of the pronotum, which, as far as I know, is unique in the whole family of *Scaritidæ*, seems to be a very singular character of this insect.



The accompanying figure shows this fine striation and also the peculiar configuration of the head; indicating the lateral production near the clypeus, and the mandibles crossing, one over the other, when closed. All the other organs are less remarkable, resembling those of *Clivina* and other genera of the family, and therefore I have not thought it necessary to figure them.